the implementation of the Civil Procedure Code Amendments which came into force from July, 2002 to ensure speedy justice to people;

(b) if so, whether under this, a time-frame has been stressed for disposal of all civil cases within a year; and

(c) whether the Chief Justice of India has decided to monitor the progress of civil cases in the courts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such provision has been made for disposal of civil cases within a period of one year in the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Acts.

(c) No such decision has been taken.

Pending cases from Andhra Pradesh in Supreme Court

2742. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are nearly 5000 court cases pending before the Supreme Court from Andhra Pradesh alone;

(b) whether these include cases filed by the State Government, citizens of the State in matters of public interest and others;

(c) if so, the total number of cases pending with the Supreme Court from other States; and

(d) the reasons put forward by the Supreme Court for delay in pronouncing the judgement in these cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Only 1,691 cases from Andhra Pradesh were pending in the Supreme Court as on 31st July, 2002. These include the cases filed by the State Government and citizens of the State under Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and others.

(c) 22,959 cases were pending in the Supreme Court from other States (excluding Andhra Pradesh) as on 31st July, 2002.

(d) From the stage of filing till the disposal of the case, certain prescribed procedural steps are required at various stages which take their own time and so it is not possible to pin point the reasons for pendency of the above matters. Infact, the registration/institution of cases as also the disposal thereof is a continuous process and the Supreme Court has taken steps to bring down the pendency through better Court Management, Case Management and better Docket Management.

Meaning of minorities

2743. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an 11 Judge Bench of the Supreme Court has started hearing on a batch of 200 petitions to have a re-look at the meaning and content of the expression minorities and the Minority institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Constitution Bench of 11 Judges of the Supreme Court in the matter TMA Pai Foundation & others *vs.* State of Karnataka & Others has framed eleven questions for consideration. A Statement indicating the questions is enclosed *(See* below*)*. Hearing of the case has already been concluded and the Hon'ble Supreme Court has reserved its judgment.

Statement

11 Questions framed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of T.M.A. Pai Foundation and Others vs. State of Karnataka

1. What is the meaning and content of the expression "minorities" in Article 30 of the Constitution of India?

2. What is meant by the expression "religion" in Article 30(1)? Can the followers of a sect or denomination of a particular religion claim protection under Article 30(1) on the basis that they constitute a minority in the State even though the followers of that religion are in majority in that State?